

SECRET
Security Information

19 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: PP/International Organization Division

ATTENTION: ☐ ☐

SUBJECT: Mr. Zolt Aradi

1. Zolt Aradi, who worked for OSS from 1944 until its dissolution and then for SSU and who has been in this country for the last five years employed the majority of this time by VOA, came to see me the other day. He advised me that he has met twice with Robert Lang of RFE and that he is negotiating with Mr. Lang to join RFE's Hungarian staff.

2. Aradi, a native Hungarian recently naturalized, worked for many years as a newspaper reporter in Europe, especially in Italy, and has had for many years extremely good contacts in Western European political circles especially amongst prominent Catholics. Aradi worked as a high-level political reporter for this Agency and his work can be described as good; his relations with members of this Agency were at all times extremely good. Aradi does not advocate any particular line in the Hungarian emigration and stands well with the major portion of prominent Hungarian political emigre figures. It is safe to say that he is a moderator rather than a political figure, and he regards himself as an emigre to the States to stay in the States and raise his family rather than a man with ambitions to return to Hungary.

3. The purpose of this memorandum is to advise you of our past association with Aradi and to strongly endorse any possible use which RFE might want to make of him. I am in no position to judge his capability in the radio field, although he has been a prominent newspaperman, journalist and writer during nearly his entire professional life. His character, however, and his basic loyalty especially to this Agency are such that I believe his work for RFE would probably be extremely fruitful. Another point to consider in his possible employment is the excellent relations he has to prominent political figures in Germany especially amongst the prominent Catholic politicians in the CDU. I believe his extremely good appearance, political experience and by no means small ability as a negotiator could help RFE greatly in keeping its lines straight with the German Administration.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3A2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
8 E 2008

~~SECRET~~
Security Information

- 2 -

4. Should Aradi be used by RFE, I would be interested to keep slight contact with him after he gets to Germany under secure conditions and naturally after clearing such contact with you.
5. We have extensive files on Aradi which we will gladly make available to you if you so desire. I would be interested in being kept advised on the status of Aradi's application with RFE.

[]

PETER SICHEL
Chief, EE/YI

Best phone: BRaxalle 2-4290 Sept 30

[illegible]

3.

I could list about 50 or 60 people who really can be asked how I behaved here and abroad, some of them would be obvious to be asked, and they have great weight. I list some of them:

Mr. Porter Chandler, lawyer, NYC
Harry H. Harper Reader's Digest
John W. Chase, former editor at Longmans and Doubleday
New London, i.e. Groton Conn.
Mons. Howard Carroll Director of RCWO
Miss Julie Korman, Director of Th. Kennedy publishers
Miss Catherine Schaeffer, chief UN office of RCWO
The executive Board of the Hungarian Natl Council
Dr. Henry Lax MD, NYC
etc.

I accept a limited appointment
to see how it works out, though
this is very humiliating for me.
I accept a transfer to RFE-
a Natl. Council's Refugee Operations
or an appointment to Rome,
and the salary is no question
of course I can't live on less
300 a month

or ever good